

Drug Tariff Determination

Reimbursement of Covid-19 costs incurred by pharmacy contractors between 1 March 2020 and 31 March 2021 and recovery of the uplift to the advance payments received between 1 April 2020 and 1 July 2020 (England only)

1. Pharmacy contractors can claim for specific categories of Covid-19 related costs incurred between 1 March 2020 and 31 March 2021 in delivery of NHS pharmaceutical services.
2. Payments will be made on 1 October providing pharmacy contractors submit their claims as per paragraph 4.
3. The uplift to the advance payments received between 1 April 2020 and 1 July 2020 (see Part I, Clause 5C paragraph 3 for detail) will be recovered as part of the monthly reconciliation from 1 October 2021 to 1 March 2022 in six equal parts. In cases of a change of ownership, the recovered payments will reflect the advance payments received by the previous owner, where the pharmacy F-code has been retained by the current owner. The contractor will receive a separate recovery letter specifying the recovered payments.

Claims process for Covid-19 related costs of the four specified categories

4. All claims must be submitted to the NHSBSA between 5 July and 15 August 2021 by completing and returning the [claim form](#).
5. Pharmacies with two or more branches may make a single claim and provide documentation to evidence claims at company level.
6. There are four categories of costs that can be claimed for. These are set out in table 1.

Table 1. Categories of Covid-19 costs that can be claimed for

	Category of costs	Includes	Excludes	Acceptable evidence
1	Additional staff costs due to Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional staff costs for backfilling staff that were ill, shielding or self-isolating due to Covid-19 - Additional staff costs to deal with the increased demand in/ time needed for the provision of NHS pharmaceutical services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional staff costs for regular (non-Covid-19 related) absences - Deferred annual leave - Staff costs for Bank Holiday openings (funded separately) 	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invoices for locums - Overtime paid for staff - Increased overall staff bill compared to previous years
2	Costs for making premises Covid-secure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Costs for Covid-19 related cleaning/hygiene products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PPE and hand sanitiser (provided/ funded separately) - Costs up to £300 for adjusting premises to support social 	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invoices/ receipts

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Costs for messaging and barriers - Costs exceeding £300 for adjusting premises to support social distancing 	distancing (funded separately)	
3	IT and communication costs to support remote working and virtual patient contact due to Covid-19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hardware costs (e.g. phones, laptops, webcams) - Software costs (e.g. software licences) 		<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invoices/receipts <p>Additional evidence is required to demonstrate that the costs are Covid-19 related, e.g. evidence of spend in previous years, justification that these are additional costs as a result of Covid-19</p>
4	Notified closures for infection control purposes (maximum 14 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Notified closures for infection control purposes where all staff had to self-isolate - Notified closures for infection control purposes of pharmacies in health centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closures not notified to NSHE&I - Closures not for the purpose of infections control - Closures for business reasons - Closures exceeding 14 days 	Contractors are asked to specify the dates and number of days the pharmacy closed following notification of NHSE&I. Following confirmation from NHSE&I that the contractor notified the closure and that the closure is in scope, contractors will be paid according to paragraph 7d.

7. Each claim must -

- a) Confirm that it is for Covid-19 related costs in the four categories in table 1, incurred between 1 March 2020 and 31 March 2021 for the delivery of NHS pharmaceutical services.
- b) Specify the amount claimed in each category of costs (categories 1 to 3) and the evidence available to support the claim.

- c) Confirm that the documentation to evidence the value of the claim will be made available to the NHSBSA on request within 5 working days upon receiving a request from the NHSBSA.
 - d) Where a claim is made for closures agreed by NHSE&I, confirm that the closure was agreed with NHSE&I, the period of the closure, the number of days the pharmacy was closed and the name of the NHS authority that was notified of the closure. If confirmed by NHSE&I that the closure was notified and is in scope, contractors will be paid their average daily fees in 2019/20 plus their average daily number of dispensed items in 2019/20 multiplied by £0.77 to reflect medicine margin for each day they were closed between 1 March 2020 and 31 March 2021 for a maximum of 14 days.
 - e) Be submitted by 15 August 2021.
8. Claims that do not meet the criteria set out in paragraph 7 will be rejected.
 9. Claims will be reviewed before or following payment. Where the evidence submitted does not support the claim, the payment will either be reduced before it is made to the contractor or, if payment has taken place, the over-payment will be recovered from the contractor's next monthly payment. If a contractor does not agree with the reduction of their payment and the recovery of the difference between the amount claimed and the amount paid, then they should contact the NHSBSA to make representations as to why they think their payment should not have been reduced. This appeal process will be open until 1 November 2022. All appeals will be considered by the Secretary of State.
 10. Contractors will not automatically receive the amount they have claimed. Once the total number of claims is in, HM Treasury will be asked to determine the funding envelope for the claims. If the envelope is the same as the amount claimed, the claims will be paid in full. If some form of capping mechanism proves necessary, then this will be set out in a Drug Tariff determination that will be published in September.